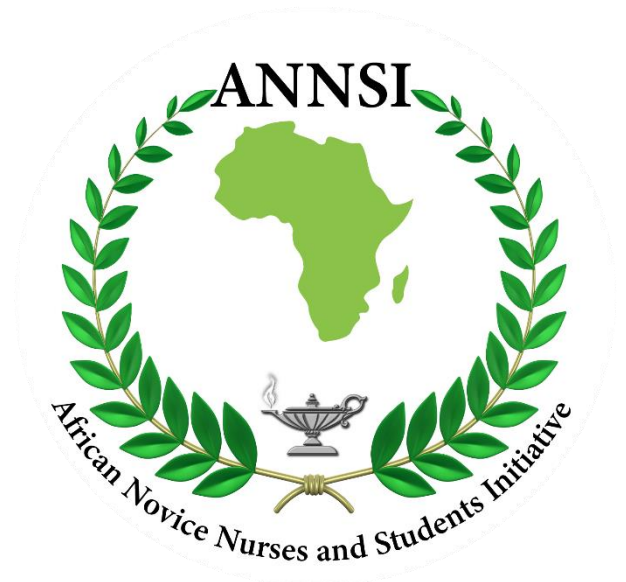


African Novice Nurses and Students Initiative

External Relations



African Youth Nurses & WHA 73

ANNSI brief notes

May 2020

**“Let our shared humanity be the antidote
to our shared threat. “**

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesu

Director-General of the World Health Organization

Content

ANNSI global engagement

Introduction

WHO efforts to fight COVID-19

Collective global response during WHA 73

Report of meetings

WHA 73 Arrangement & Announcements

ANNSI global engagement

African youth nurses should take the lead now!

Aspiration number 7 of the Africa Agenda 2063 is An **Africa** as A Strong, United, Resilient and Influential Global Player and Partner. Hence, ANNSI believe that African nurses should be active part of global health events as “World health assembly which we attended in May 2019 and World Innovation Summit of Health which we attended in November 2018....etc.”

Introduction

The **World Health Assembly** is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

WHO is the specialized global health agency of the United Nations. Made up of 194 member states, WHO works worldwide to promote the highest standard of health for all people, regardless of race, religion, gender, political belief, economic or social condition.

WHO’s mission is to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable. Access to affordable and adequate health care is a human right and universal healthcare is a key principle guiding WHO’s work. By 2030, WHO aims to ensure that one billion more people benefit from universal health coverage. At least half of the world’s population lacks access to essential health services and out-of-pocket expenses drive almost 100 million people into poverty each year. WHO connects leading health experts from around the world to produce reference materials on global health issues and make recommendations to better the health of all people.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seventy-third World Health Assembly —its first-ever to be held virtually— met with a reduced agenda to fit into two days. delegates adopted a landmark resolution to bring the world together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The resolution, co-sponsored by more than 130 countries, was adopted by consensus.

It calls for the intensification of efforts to control the pandemic, and for equitable access to and fair distribution of all essential health technologies and products to combat the virus. It also calls for an independent and comprehensive evaluation of the global response, including, but not limited to, WHO’s performance.

As WHO convened ministers of health from almost every country in the world, the consistent message throughout the two-day meeting—including from the 14 heads of state participating in the opening and closing sessions —was that global unity is the most powerful tool to combat the outbreak. The resolution is a concrete manifestation of this call, and a roadmap for controlling the outbreak.

In his closing remarks, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said “COVID-19 has robbed us of people we love. It’s robbed us of lives and livelihoods; it’s shaken the foundations of our world; it threatens to tear at the fabric of international cooperation. But it’s also reminded us that for all our differences, we are one human race, and we are stronger together.” The World Health Assembly will reconvene later in the year.

WHO efforts to fight COVID-19



During health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO gathers global data and brings together evidence and expertise from the world's best scientists to offer advice and guidance to countries according to their unique situations. In a global health crisis, the world is only as strong as its weakest health system. WHO works to assist countries in need through offering responsible recommendations, facilitating supply chains, and delivering equipment from both the Organization and other Member States.

As well as assisting individual countries, WHO is coordinating the hundreds of studies and trials underway around the world in the united search for a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment. Knowledge is power and WHO is facilitating the sharing of knowledge in the fight against this deadly coronavirus. If treatments or vaccines are discovered, WHO guided the equitable distribution of these valuable commodities worldwide so that the most vulnerable people don't miss out.

The promise was made during the seventy-third World Health Assembly (WHA73), a meeting of the WHO's decision-making body, which was held virtually for the first time.

During the meeting, consensus backing was won among the health body's 194 states for a resolution drafted by the European Union calling for the evaluation of WHO's performance.

Director-General of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said he welcomed the proposed resolution for a comprehensive evaluation to "review experience gained and lessons learned and to make recommendations to improve national and global pandemic preparedness and response."

"We all have lessons to learn from the pandemic. Every country and every organization must examine its response and learn from its experience. WHO is committed to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement," Tedros said, adding that the review must "encompass the entirety of the response by all actors, in good faith.

Collective global response during WHA 73



China's president Xi Jinping said Beijing would support an impartial evaluation of the global response once the pandemic is brought under control.

"This work needs a scientific and professional attitude, and needs to be led by the WHO. And the principles of objectivity and fairness need to be upheld," he told the meeting via video.

President Xi added: "All along we have acted with openness and transparency and responsibility." United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the event, criticizing nations who had ignored the WHO's recommendations.

"Different countries have followed different, sometimes contradictory, strategies and we are all paying a heavy price," he warned in a video address.

"COVID-19 must be a wake-up call. It is time for an end to the hubris," he said. "Either we get through this pandemic together, or we fail."

Guterres also backed the WHO saying it "is irreplaceable - it needs immense resources particularly to provide support to developing countries which must be our greatest concern. We are strong as the weakest health systems."

Across Europe, world leaders and health ministers used their messages to back an investigation, but also to reiterate their support for the World Health Organization and its importance, as well as the need for a united and collective global response.

Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, said "the WHO is the legitimate world organization for the area of health, and so we should continue to work to improve procedures within the WHO, and we also need to look at the financing to ensure it is sustainable."

"I am convinced that we will be able to overcome this pandemic when we work together, and that will help us to achieve this more rapidly," she added.

France's president, Emmanuel Macron, said that "only if we join forces together will we beat this pandemic, and we need the WHO for its irreplaceable coordinating role, for its scientific expertise, for its knowledge of the situation on the ground."

Macron added that the WHO also needs everybody else, "that's precisely why recently France has decided to substantially increase our financial contribution to this organization."

He said: "With the WHO, with our European partners and with everybody involved in global health. We have launched an initiative called Act A. The purpose of that is to offer a massive support to research, to speed up the results of medical research, and to ensure that we can guarantee universal access to the tools we need to fight the pandemic," adding that any vaccine must "be a global public good."

The UK echoed those sentiments saying that COVID-19 was a "shared challenge" that must be defeated through a "collective response." Health secretary Matt Hancock said: "We all have a collective responsibility here. But for now, we must all remain focused on the fight against the virus. And of course, a vaccine will be our best weapon in this fight."

"I'm proud that the UK is leading this work, that we're the biggest donor to the global effort to find a vaccine and that UK research efforts are leading the way to build on this. The UK will be hosting a global vaccine summit on 4 June," he added.

Member states hope the WHA can fashion a joint response, including commitments on equitable access to potential treatments and vaccines. "We have come together as the nations of the world to confront the defining health crisis of our time," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the assembly.

Report of meetings



First plenary meeting

The President of the Seventy-second World Health Assembly opened the segment and invited the Secretariat to moderate the session. Ms Simonetta Sommaruga, President of the Swiss Confederation, delivered her statement as representative of the host country. Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, Mr Emanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France, Mr Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea, Mrs Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and Ms Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, addressed the Health Assembly.

The Director-General presented his report on the work of WHO.

Opening of the Health Assembly

In the chair: Dr Bounkong Syhavong (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
President of the Seventy-second World Health Assembly

Dr Bounkong Syhavong opened the Seventy-third World Health Assembly and welcomed the participants to the virtual platform.

Election of the President of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly

In accordance with Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the President invited the Health Assembly to consider the list of names of delegates proposed for the nominations of President and five Vice-Presidents of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly. In accordance with Rule 78 of the Rules of

Procedure, the Health Assembly approved the nomination of Ms Keva Bain (Bahamas) and elected her as President of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly by acclamation. Ms Bain took the chair and announced that her speech would be delivered after consideration of item 1.3, Election of the five Vice-Presidents.

Election of the five Vice-Presidents of the Seventy-third World Health Assembly

The President invited the Health Assembly to consider the proposals received for the nomination for the offices of Vice-Presidents.

- Mrs Jacqueline Lydia Mikolo (Congo)
- Mr Robert Ciavatta (San Marino)
- Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien (Thailand)
- Mr Li Song (People’s Republic of China)
- Dr Akram Eltoum (Sudan)

were elected Vice-Presidents of the Health Assembly by acclamation. The names of the five Vice-Presidents are shown in the order in which they were drawn by lot. The President addressed the Health Assembly.

Consideration of special procedures

The Assembly was invited to consider the special procedures to regulate the conduct of virtual *de minimis* meetings of the World Health Assembly, as contained in Annex 1 of document A73/33. The report was adopted by the Assembly.

Credentials

In view of the special procedures adopted by the Assembly, the First Vice-President of the Seventy-second World Health Assembly presented the report on credentials. 180 Member States were found to have credentials in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. In addition to the oral report, 10 further Member States submitted credentials. Following examination of these credentials, the President of the Seventy-second World Health Assembly found them to be in keeping with the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure.

Adoption of the agenda

The Assembly was invited to adopt the agendas contained in documents A73/1 and A73/1 Add.1, and consider the proposal for a supplementary agenda item as contained in document A73/1 Add.2. The President proposed that, in accordance with Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure, the request for the supplementary agenda item be first considered by the General Committee at the resumed session. The agendas were adopted and the proposal approved.

Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General

The Director-General introduced this item and informed the Assembly that his earlier address already constituted his report on the work of WHO.

- General discussion

The President invited statements by delegations, and asked the Secretariat to manage the session. The delegate of Azerbaijan, and the delegate of Croatia (who spoke on behalf of the European Union and European Region) addressed the Assembly. These speakers were followed by the delegates of Djibouti (who spoke on behalf of the French-speaking Ambassadors of the African Region), Estonia (who spoke on behalf of Nordic/Baltic States), the Netherlands, Tunisia, Singapore, Denmark, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Argentina, the Philippines, Belgium, Kenya, France, Bahamas, South Africa, Poland, Congo (who spoke on behalf of the African Region), Tunisia (who spoke on behalf of the Eastern Mediterranean Region), Botswana, Fiji, Thailand, Colombia, Australia, Indonesia, Zimbabwe,

Bhutan, India, Malta, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway, Mexico, Canada, the United States of America, Honduras, Zambia, Cuba, Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica, Israel, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Chile, Turkey, Bangladesh, Ghana, Malaysia, Jordan, China, Germany, Lebanon and Sweden.

The President announced that delegations who wished to exercise their right of reply, in accordance with Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure, would be invited to speak before the closure of the plenary.

The meeting was suspended.

First plenary meeting (resumed)

At the invitation by the Secretariat, the delegation from the Republic of Korea addressed the Assembly, followed by the delegates of Nigeria, Montenegro, Italy, Djibouti (who spoke on behalf of the International French-speaking Organizations), the Netherlands (who spoke as Chair of the Global Health Security Agenda), Myanmar, Algeria, the Russian Federation, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Syrian Arab Republic, Mozambique, Qatar, Luxembourg, Barbados, Niger, Portugal, Armenia, Iceland, Lithuania, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Romania, Ireland, Cambodia, New Zealand, Cyprus, Finland, Nauru (who spoke on behalf of the Pacific Island countries), Antigua and Barbuda (who spoke on behalf of the Organization of Caribbean States), Togo, Haiti, Maldives, Brunei Darussalam, Paraguay, Ethiopia, Gabon, Belarus, Angola and Slovenia.

The meeting was suspended.

Messages from the six WHO Regional Directors was presented.

First plenary meeting (resumed)

The meeting resumed and the delegation from Slovakia addressed the Assembly, followed by the delegates of Turkmenistan, Turkmenistan, Albania, Sierra Leone, Austria, Spain, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Nepal, Guyana, Afghanistan, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Nauru, Mauritius, Egypt, Cabo Verde, Belize, Saint Lucia, Guatemala, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Czechia, Hungary, Greece, Panama, Libya, Dominican Republic, Senegal, Eswatini, Mongolia, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Venezuela, Guatemala, Mali, Dominica, Nicaragua, Tonga, Mauritania, Cameroon (on behalf of the African Group of Ambassadors), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, Tuvalu, the Observer from Palestine, Central African Republic, Benin, and the Observers from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Organization for Migration (IOM). The President proposed that consideration of agenda item 3 resume at the next Plenary meeting.

In accordance with Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure, the delegations of China and the United States of America exercised the right of reply.

The meeting was adjourned.

WHA 73 Arrangement & Announcements



Arrangement for the conduct of discussion in Plenary

Verbal statements

Delegates asked to observe the time limit for verbal statements during the virtual sessions. To ensure that statements are interpreted as clearly as possible, delegates requested to submit a copy of their statements in advance by email to interpret@who.int.

Written statements

Written statements of no more than 600 words in one of the official languages of the Organization submitted for posting on the WHO website under agenda item 3 Address of the Director-General on the item on COVID-19, in advance of the opening of WHA73. These included in the official record of the meeting, even if the delegation had not been able to deliver the statement live in the virtual meeting.

Virtual Meeting Platform for WHA73

Interprefy platform used for virtual sessions of WHA73. More information about the platform is available at <https://www.interprefy.com/>.

In addition to the Interprefy platform, the virtual sessions also broadcasted on the WHO web site in all six official languages.